



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

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Serial No.: 09/774,230 Group Art Unit: 2182

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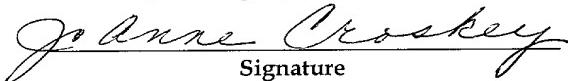
Docket No.: 199-1905 (VGT 0168 PUS)

Title: "I/O MULTIPLEXER AND PIN CONTROLLER WITH SERIAL  
AND PARALLEL CAPABILITIES FOR MICROPROCESSOR  
BASED ENGINE CONTROL"

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

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Jo Anne Croskey

  
Signature

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Upon reviewing the above-identified application it was discovered that the paragraph indicating that the utility application claims benefit of an earlier filed provisional patent application. Therefore, please amend the specification to include that paragraph below the application title as follows:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims benefit of earlier filed provisional patent application Serial No. 60/179,250, filed January 31, 2000, entitled "I/O Multiplexer And Pin Controller With Serial And Parallel Capabilities For Microprocessor Based Engine Control."

If there are any questions regarding this preliminary amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela M. Brunetti".

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